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EXAMINER
MILIA, MARK R

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DATE MAILED: 03/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address* --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>09 January 2006</u>.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) <u>1-23</u> is/are pending in the application.
   4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) <u>1-23</u> is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.
   Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
   Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
   a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:
      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
   * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/8/06
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1.   A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set

forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this

application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set

forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action

has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 1/9/06

has been entered.

Response to Amendment

2.   Applicant's amendment was received on 1/9/06 and has been entered and made

of record. Currently, claims 1-23 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

3.   Applicant's amendment to claims 16-23 to direct the claims to statutory subject

matter has overcome the rejection as cited in the previous Office Action. Therefore the

rejection has been withdrawn.

Response to Arguments

4.   Applicant's arguments filed 1/9/06 have been fully considered but they are not

persuasive.

In response to the applicant's arguments regarding the current amendments to

claims 1, 6, 11, 16, and 20, the applicant asserts that the references of Garfinkle,

Takemoto, and Tanaka do not show or suggest the newly added limitations: "a

customer ID processor for receiving a customer ID transmitted from the terminal

equipment of the customer; a customer password memory for memorizing a customer

password with respect to each customer ID; a publication password memory for

memorizing a publication password with respect to each customer ID; and an access

controller for allowing registration, surveying, printing and erasing of image data when

the customer password is received, and for allowing only the surveying and printing of

the image data when the publication password is received". The examiner respectfully

disagrees as the reference of Garfinkle does disclose such features. Particularly,

Garfinkle discloses accessing images on an image server using a unique account (user

ID) and password and the account can be customized to limit access capabilities for

particular users and accounts. Further, accessing data, such as images located on

image servers, using specific user IDs and passwords, and limiting user privileges, is

well known and used in the art.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

6.   Claims 1-7 and 11-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Garfinkle in view of Takemoto.

Regarding claim 1, Garfinkle discloses an image data administration apparatus

comprising: a data communication unit connected to at least one terminal equipment of

a customer and at least one photographic printer via a network (see Figs. 1 and 6 and

column 2 line 57-column 3 line 19, reference teaches a photographer which is

analogous to the customer in the claimed element), an image data memory for

memorizing a plurality of image data with respect to each customer transmitted from the

terminal equipment (see Fig. 1 and column 3 line 56-column 4 line 15), an image

information memory for memorizing information associated and transmitted with each

image data (see column 3 line 56-column 4 line 15 and column 4 lines 55-67), an image

data selector for selecting image data having associated information from among the

image data memorized in the image data memory when the specific information

transmitted from the terminal equipment of the customer is received (see column 4 line

55-column 5 line 29), an index image data processor for forming an index image data in

which a plurality of thumbnail images corresponding to the image data selected by the

image data selector are arranged in a predetermined order and for outputting the index

image data via the data communication unit to at least one of the terminal equipment of

the customer and the photographic printer (see column 4 line 55-column 5 line 40,

column 7 lines 4-24 and 43-52, column 9 lines 1-5 and 14-25, column 9 line 42-column

10 line 8, and column 10 lines 16-21), a customer ID processor for receiving a customer

ID transmitted from the terminal equipment of the customer (see 9 lines 42-49), a

customer password memory for memorizing a customer password with respect to each

customer ID (see column 9 lines 42-59), a publication password memory for memorizing

a publication password with respect to each customer ID (see column 9 lines 42-59),

and an access controller for allowing registration, surveying, printing and erasing of

image data when the customer password is received, and for allowing only the

surveying and printing of the image data when the publication password is received

(see column 9 lines 42-59).

Garfinkle does not disclose expressly a keyword associated with and transmitted

with each image data.

Takemoto discloses an image information memory for memorizing a keyword

associated with and transmitted with each image data (see column 3 lines 6-20, column

6 lines 20-42, column 8 lines 60-67, and column 11 lines 13-52) and an image data

selector for selecting image data associated with a specific keyword from the image

data memorized in the image data memory when the specific keyword transmitted from

the terminal equipment of the customer is received (see column 3 lines 6-20, column 7

lines 7-14, and column 11 line 64-column 12 line 23).

Regarding claim 6, Garfinkle discloses an image data administration system

comprising an image data administration apparatus, at least one photographic printer

and a network for communicating the image data administration apparatus and the

photographic printer to at least one terminal equipment of a customer, wherein the

image data administration apparatus includes: a first data communication unit

connected to the network so as to communicate with the terminal equipment and the

photographic printer (see Figs. 1 and 6 and column 2 line 57-column 3 line 19), an

image data memory for memorizing a plurality of image data with respect to each

customer transmitted from the terminal equipment (see Fig. 1 and column 3 line 56-

column 4 line 15), an image information memory for memorizing information associated

and transmitted with each image data (see column 3 line 56-column 4 line 15 and

column 4 lines 55-67), a first image data selector for selecting a first set of image data

associated with specific information among the image data memorized in the image

data memory when the specific information transmitted from the terminal equipment of

the customer is received (see column 3 line 56-column 4 line 15 and column 4 lines 55-

67), a first index image data processor for forming a first index image data in which a

plurality of thumbnail images corresponding to the first set of image data are arranged in

a predetermined order and for outputting the first index image data to the terminal

equipment of the customer via the first data communication unit (see column 5 lines 1-

40, column 6 line 56-column 7 line 3, and column 8 lines 8-37), a second image data

selector for selecting from the image data at least one secondary image data having the

specific information corresponding to a selection data transmitted from the terminal

equipment of the customer (see column 9 line 42-column 10 line 8 and column 10 lines

16-21), and a second index image data processor for renewing the first index image

data to incorporate the secondary selected image data in accordance with the selection

by the customer and for outputting renewed index image data to the terminal equipment

of the customer (see column 6 lines 45-49, column 8 lines 8-37, and column 9 lines 1-

5), and a print order processor for forming a print order file including printing conditions

instructed by the customer and for transmitting the image data and the renewed index

image data with the print order file and for outputting them to the photographic printer

via the first data communication unit when the second index image data are confirmed

by the customer (see column 9 lines 14-41 and column 10 lines 16-21), the

photographic printer includes: a second data communication unit for receiving the image

data and the renewed index image data with the print order file from the image data

administration apparatus (see Fig. 1 and column 9 line 42-column 10 line 8), an

exposing unit for exposing a sensitized surface of a photographic paper by using the

image data and the index image data (see column 8 lines 8-37 and column 10 lines 9-

27), a developing unit for developing the exposed photographic paper for making

photographic prints of images corresponding to the image data and for printing an index

print of thumbnail images corresponding to the index image data (see column 8 lines 8-

37 and column 10 lines 9-27), a customer ID processor for receiving a customer ID

transmitted from the terminal equipment of the customer (see 9 lines 42-49), a customer

password memory for memorizing a customer password with respect to each customer

ID (see column 9 lines 42-59), a publication password memory for memorizing a

publication password with respect to each customer ID (see column 9 lines 42-59), and

an access controller for allowing registration, surveying, printing and erasing of image

data when the customer password is received, and for allowing only the surveying and

printing of the image data when the publication password is received (see column 9

lines 42-59).

Garfinkle does not disclose expressly a keyword associated with and transmitted

with each image data.

Takemoto discloses an image information memory for memorizing a keyword

associated with and transmitted with each image data (see column 3 lines 6-20, column

6 lines 20-42, column 8 lines 60-67, and column 11 lines 13-52) and an image data

selector for selecting image data associated with a specific keyword from the image

data memorized in the image data memory when the specific keyword transmitted from

the terminal equipment of the customer is received (see column 3 lines 6-20, column 7

lines 7-14, and column 11 line 64-column 12 line 23).

Regarding claim 11, Garfinkle discloses a method for administrating image data

comprising the steps of: memorizing image data in a specific folder in an image data

memory of an image data administration apparatus in accordance with a customer's ID

associated with each image data, when the image data are transmitted from a terminal

equipment of a customer communicated with the image data administration apparatus

via a network (see Fig. 1, column 3 line 56-column 4 line 15, column 4 lines 55-67, and

column 9 lines 1-5), memorizing information associated and transmitted with each

image data in a specific folder in an image information memory of the image data

administration apparatus (see column 3 line 56-column 4 line 15), selecting image data

associated with specific information among the image data memorized in the image

data memory when the specific information is transmitted from the terminal equipment

of the customer (see column 4 lines 2-15 and 55-67 and column 7 lines 61-67), forming

an index image data in which a plurality of thumbnail images corresponding to the

selected image data are arranged in a predetermined order (see column 5 lines 1-40

and column 6 line 56-column 7 line 24), outputting the index image data to at least one

of the terminal equipment of the customer and a photographic printer (see column 5

lines 1-40, column 6 line 56-column 7 line 24, and column 8 lines 8-37), memorizing a

customer password with respect to each customer ID (see column 9 lines 42-59),

memorizing a publication password with respect to each customer ID (see column 9

lines 42-59), and controlling access to the image data to allow registration, surveying,

printing and erasing of the image data when the customer password is received, and to

allow only the surveying and printing of the image data when the publication password

is received (see column 9 lines 42-59).

Garfinkle does not disclose expressly a keyword associated with and transmitted

with each image data.

Takemoto discloses an image information memory for memorizing a keyword

associated with and transmitted with each image data (see column 3 lines 6-20, column

6 lines 20-42, column 8 lines 60-67, and column 11 lines 13-52) and an image data

selector for selecting image data associated with a specific keyword from the image

data memorized in the image data memory when the specific keyword transmitted from

the terminal equipment of the customer is received (see column 3 lines 6-20, column 7

lines 7-14, and column 11 line 64-column 12 line 23).

Regarding claim 16, Garfinkle discloses a program for administrating image data

comprising the steps of: receiving at least one image data and information associated

with each image data which are transmitted from a terminal equipment of a customer

via a network (see Figs. 1 and 6, column 2 line 57-column 3 line 19, column 3 lines 44-

55, and column 4 lines 43-47), memorizing the image data in a specific folder in an

image data memory corresponding to a customer's ID associated with each image data

(see column 3 line 56-column 4 line 15, column 4 lines 55-67, column 7 lines 61-67, and

column 9 lines 1-5), memorizing the information into a specific folder in an image

information memory (see column 7 lines 61-67), receiving an instruction designating

specific information transmitted from the terminal equipment of the customer (see

column 5 lines 1-29, column 7 lines 4-60, and column 9 line 42-column 10 line 8),

selecting image data associated with the specific information among the image data

memorized in the image data memory (see column 3 line 56-column 4 line 15, column 4

lines 55-67, and column 5 lines 1-7), forming an index image data in which a plurality of

thumbnail images corresponding to the selected image data are arranged in a

predetermined order (see column 5 lines 1-29, column 6 line 56-column 7 line 24, and

column 7 lines 43-60), outputting the index image data to the terminal equipment of the

customer (see column 5 lines 1-29, column 6 line 56-column 7 line 24, column 7 lines

43-60, and column 8 lines 8-37), memorizing a customer password with respect to each

customer ID (see column 9 lines 42-59), memorizing a publication password with

respect to each customer ID (see column 9 lines 42-59), and controlling access to the

image data to allow registration, surveying, printing and erasing of the image data when

the customer password is received, and to allow only the surveying and printing of the

image data when the publication password is received (see column 9 lines 42-59).

Garfinkle does not disclose expressly a keyword associated with and transmitted

with each image data.

Takemoto discloses an image information memory for memorizing a keyword

associated with and transmitted with each image data (see column 3 lines 6-20, column

6 lines 20-42, column 8 lines 60-67, and column 11 lines 13-52) and an image data

selector for selecting image data associated with a specific keyword from the image

data memorized in the image data memory when the specific keyword transmitted from

the terminal equipment of the customer is received (see column 3 lines 6-20, column 7

lines 7-14, and column 11 line 64-column 12 line 23).

Regarding claim 20, Garfinkle discloses a recording medium recording a program

for administrating image data, wherein the program comprising the steps of: receiving

image data and information associated with each image data which are transmitted from

a terminal equipment of a customer via a network (see Figs. 1 and 6, column 2 line 57-

column 3 line 19, column 3 lines 44-55, and column 4 lines 43-47), memorizing the

image data in a specific folder in an image data memory corresponding to a customer's

ID attached with each image data (see column 3 line 56-column 4 line 15, column 4

lines 55-67, column 7 lines 61-67, and column 9 lines 1-5), memorizing the information

into a specific folder in an image information memory (see column 7 lines 61-67),

receiving an instruction designating specific information transmitted from the terminal

equipment of the customer (see column 5 lines 1-29, column 7 lines 4-60, and column 9

line 42-column 10 line 8), selecting image data associated with the specific information

among the image data memorized in the image data memory (see column 3 line 56-

column 4 line 15, column 4 lines 55-67, and column 5 lines 1-7), forming an index image

data in which a plurality of thumbnail images corresponding to the selected image data

are arranged in a predetermined order (see column 5 lines 1-29, column 6 line 56-

column 7 line 24, and column 7 lines 43-60), outputting the index image data to the

terminal equipment of the customer (see column 5 lines 1-29, column 6 line 56-column

7 line 24, column 7 lines 43-60, and column 8 lines 8-37), memorizing a customer

password with respect to each customer ID (see column 9 lines 42-59), memorizing a

publication password with respect to each customer ID (see column 9 lines 42-59), and

controlling access to the image data to allow registration, surveying, printing and

erasing of the image data when the customer password is received, and to allow only

the surveying and printing of the image data when the publication password is received

(see column 9 lines 42-59).

Garfinkle does not disclose expressly a keyword associated with and transmitted

with each image data.

Takemoto discloses an image information memory for memorizing a keyword

associated with and transmitted with each image data (see column 3 lines 6-20, column

6 lines 20-42, column 8 lines 60-67, and column 11 lines 13-52) and an image data selector for selecting image data associated with a specific keyword from the image data memorized in the image data memory when the specific keyword transmitted from the terminal equipment of the customer is received (see column 3 lines 6-20, column 7 lines 7-14, and column 11 line 64-column 12 line 23).

Garfinkle & Takemoto are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, storage and management of image data.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the keywords associated with each image file for storage and retrieval as described by Takemoto with the system of Garfinkle. Further the reference of Garfinkle shows that each image is assigned a different number to differentiate the images and therefore the use of a keyword, which is similar to a filename that is used to aid in the storage and retrieval of files and is well known and commonly used in the art, would have been obvious to implement in such a system.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to allow a user to easily ascertain the contents of files and manipulate the files (see column 2 lines 31-50 of Takemoto).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Takemoto with Garfinkle to obtain the invention as specified in claims 1, 6, 11, 16, and 20.

Regarding claims 2 and 12, Garfinkle and Takemoto disclose the system discussed in claims 1 and 11, and Garfinkle further discloses a print order processor for

forming a print order file including printing conditions instructed by the customer and for

transmitting the image data and the index image data with the print order file so as to

make the printer print photographic prints corresponding to the image data and an index

print corresponding to the index image data (see column 7 lines 4-24 and 42-52, column

8 lines 8-37, and column 9 lines 14-25).

Regarding claims 3, 10, and 13, Garfinkle and Takemoto disclose the system

discussed in claims 1, 6, and 11, and Takemoto further discloses wherein the image

information memory further memorizing date information of a date on which the image

of the image data is taken (date stamping a picture at the time it is taken is well known

and used in the art and would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the

time the invention was made to utilize such a feature) and the plurality of thumbnail

images are arranged with respect to date (see column 12 lines 29-39).

Regarding claims 4 and 14, Garfinkle and Takemoto disclose the system

discussed in claims 1 and 11, and Garfinkle further discloses wherein the image data

selector further has a function of selecting at least one secondary image data among

the image data having the specific information corresponding to a selection made by the

customer when the data communication unit further receives an instruction data

regarding the selection from the terminal equipment of the customer (see column 5 lines

1-40), and the index image data processor renews the index image data in accordance

with the selection made by the customer with using secondary selected image data and

outputs renewed index image data to the terminal equipment of the customer (see

column 6 line 56-column 7 line 3 and column 7 lines 4-52). Takemoto further discloses

a function of selecting at least one image data among the image data having the

specific keyword in accordance with a selection made by the customer when the data

communication unit further receives an instruction data regarding the selection from the

terminal equipment of the customer (see column 3 lines 6-20, column 7 lines 7-14, and

column 11 line 64-column 12 line 23).

Regarding claim 5, Garfinkle and Takemoto disclose the system discussed in

claim 4, and Garfinkle further discloses a print order processor for forming a print order

file including printing conditions instructed by the customer and for transmitting the

image data and the renewed index image data with the print order file so as to make the

printer print photographic prints corresponding to the image data and an index print

corresponding to the index image data (see column 7 lines 4-24 and 42-52, column 8

lines 8-37, and column 9 lines 14-25).

Regarding claim 7, Garfinkle and Takemoto disclose the system discussed in

claim 6, and Garfinkle further discloses wherein the terminal equipment of the customer

has a monitor display, and a data communication unit of the image data administration

apparatus transmits the index image data to the terminal equipment of the customer to

be displayed on the monitor display (see Figs. 1 and 6, column 5 lines 1-40, column 6

line 56-column 7 line 3, and column 7 lines 4-60).

Regarding claim 15, Garfinkle and Takemoto disclose the system discussed in

claim 14, and Garfinkle further discloses forming a print order file including printing

conditions instructed by the customer when a confirming data for confirming the

renewed index image data by the customer is received (see column 7 lines 25-60), and

transmitting the image data corresponding to the images included in the renewed index

image data and the renewed index image data with the print order file to the

photographic printer so as to make the printer print photographic prints corresponding to

the image data and an index print corresponding to the index image data (see column 8

lines 8-37 and column 9 lines 1-5 and 14-25).

Regarding claims 17 and 21, Garfinkle and Takemoto disclose the system

discussed in claims 16 and 20, and Garfinkle further discloses the steps of: receiving

from the terminal equipment of the customer an instruction data including confirmation

of change of the index image data (see column 6 line 56-column 7 line 3), selecting

from the image data in the memory at least one secondary image data associated with

the specific information the instruction data (see column 5 lines 1-35, column 7 lines 4-

60, and column 8 lines 8-37), renewing the index image data in accordance with the

instruction data incorporating the secondary image data (see column 7 lines 4-42), and

outputting the renewed index image data to the terminal equipment of the customer

(see column 7 lines 43-60). Takemoto further discloses keywords associated with

image data (see column 3 lines 6-20, column 7 lines 7-14, and column 11 line 64-

column 12 line 23).

Regarding claims 18 and 22, Garfinkle and Takemoto disclose the system

discussed in claims 16 and 20, and Garfinkle further discloses the steps of: receiving

from the terminal equipment of the customer instruction data including confirmation with

respect to the index image data and order with respect to printing of photographic prints

(see column 9 lines 14-41), forming a print order file including instructions to a

photographic printer in accordance with the instruction data and transmitting the image

data and the index image data with the print order file to the photographic printer so as

to make the printer print photographic prints corresponding to the image data and an

index print corresponding to the index image data (see column 7 lines 4-24 and 42-52,

column 8 lines 8-37, and column 9 lines 14-25).

Regarding claims 19 and 23, Garfinkle and Takemoto disclose the system

discussed in claims 16 and 20, and Garfinkle further discloses the steps of: receiving

from the terminal equipment of the customer instruction data including confirmation or

instruction of change with respect to the index image data (see column 7 lines 4-42),

selecting from the image data at least one secondary image data having the specific

information corresponding to the instruction data (see column 7 lines 43-60), renewing

the index image data in accordance with the instruction data transmitted by the

customer to incorporate the secondary image data (see column 6 line 56-column 7 line

3, column 7 lines 4-60, and column 9 lines 1-5), forming a print order file including

printing conditions in accordance with the instruction data (see column 7 lines 4-60 and

column 9 lines 14-41), and transmitting the image data and the index image data with

the print order file to the photographic printer so as to make the printer print

photographic prints corresponding to the image data and an index print corresponding

to the index image data (see column 7 lines 14-41 and column 8 lines 8-37). Takemoto

further discloses keywords associated with image data (see column 3 lines 6-20,

column 7 lines 7-14, and column 11 line 64-column 12 line 23).

7.   Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Garfinkle and Takemoto as applied to claim 6 above, and further in view of Tanaka.

Garfinkle discloses (*claim 8*) a photographic printer (see Fig. 6) and (*claim9*)

wherein the terminal equipment of the customer has a monitor display (see Figs. 1, 6, 8,

and 9c).

Garfinkle and Takemoto do not disclose expressly (*claim 8*) wherein the

photographic printer includes a control unit for calculating forecasted termination time

when all the photographic prints instructed in the print order file will be completed, and

the second data communication unit transmits the forecasted termination time to the

first data communication unit of the image data administration apparatus and (*claim 9*)

the first data communication unit of the image data administration apparatus re-

transmits the calculating forecasted termination time to the terminal equipment of the

customer to be displayed on the monitor display.

Tanaka discloses (*claim 8*) a control unit for calculating forecasted termination

time when all the photographic prints instructed in the print order file will be completed,

and the second data communication unit transmits the forecasted termination time to

the first data communication unit of the image data administration apparatus (see Fig. 7,

column 14 line 65-column 15 line 37, and column 16 lines 8-16) and (*claim 9*) the first

data communication unit of the image data administration apparatus transmits the

calculating forecasted termination time to the terminal equipment of the customer to be

displayed on the monitor display (see Fig. 7, column 14 line 65-column 15 line 37, and

column 16 lines 8-16).

Garfinkle, Takemoto, & Tanaka are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, printing images with increased user convenience.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the forecasting of completion time of Tanaka with the system of Garfinkle and Takemoto.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to provide a user with a forecasted completion time of printed images to increase productivity and provide greater operator support.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Tanaka with Garfinkle and Takemoto to obtain the invention as specified in claims 8 and 9.

Conclusion

8.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. To further show the state of the art refer to U.S. Patent No. 6856414 (Haneda et al.).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark R. Milia whose telephone number is (571) 272-7408. The examiner can normally be reached M-F 8:00am-4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twyler M. Lamb can be reached at (571) 272-7406. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

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Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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